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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 16 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I have the honour to address myself to you, in your capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, to enclose herewith a note verbale dated 26 April 2002, sent by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations. I would like to request your good offices in officially circulating the text of the note verbale as an official document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

I also have the honour to request that an item entitled "Host country travel regulations" be formally included in the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, to be held on Wednesday, 29 May 2002, at 3 p.m., in order to consider the issue contained in the attached note verbale.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 16 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Note verbale dated 26 April 2002 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and has the honour to express its deep concern at the denial by the host country authorities of the request made for Mr. Rodolfo E. Benítez Verson, First Secretary of the Mission, to travel beyond the 25-mile radius from Columbus Circle, in the Headquarters district, to attend the brainstorming session on "The Politics of Nuclear Weapons: Its Implications for Strategic Stability", to be convened by the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations reiterates that the restriction imposed on the staff of certain missions and officials of certain nationalities by the competent authorities of the host country is in violation of international rules recognized by international and customary law, among other rules. This restriction is applied in a discriminatory and selective way and interferes with the normal functioning of missions.

Likewise, the practice of denying the request to travel beyond the limits established for the diplomatic agents of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations is arbitrary and unfair and places the Cuban diplomats in a disadvantageous position with respect to attending events, seminars and symposia which are directly related to the activities of the United Nations, as is the case of the brainstorming session organized by the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations.

In this context, the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations once again urges the host country to consider the adoption of measures in accordance with international law and the spirit of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, with a view to guaranteeing that the Cuban diplomatic agents may fully enjoy the system of privileges and immunities, as well as the overall facilities, recognized by the international legal instruments provided in this matter for this kind of personnel.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United States Mission to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.